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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/792,280	03/04/2004	Michael R. Bowman	WYE-027	3906

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EXAMINER

LIN, JERRY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1631

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-14, and 20, drawn to a method of administering an agent to a mammal with an allergic or inflammatory disease and the agent, classified in class 514, subclass 01. (Species Election required)
 - II. Claims 15-17, drawn to method for identifying an agent for treating an allergic or inflammatory disease, classified in class 703, subclass 11.
 - III. Claims 18 and 19, drawn to a method that includes comparing expression profiles, classified in class 435, subclass 04.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Groups I, II and III are directed to related processes. The related inventions are distinct if the inventions as claimed do not overlap in scope; the inventions as claimed are not obvious variants; and the inventions as claimed are either not capable of use together or can have a materially different design, mode of operation, function, or effect. See MPEP § 806.05(j). In the instant case, the groups are directed toward different goals and have different method steps. Thus the instant claims do not overlap in scope. Furthermore, since the groups have different goals and different method steps, the groups have a materially different design, mode of operation, function, or effect.

3. Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Species Election for Group I

4. Group I contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

Species A, drawn to a type of component (applicant is required to elect one type of component in claims 5, 6, 7, and 14)

Species B, drawn to agents that inhibit a type of expression (applicant is required to elect either ARG1 or CAT2 in claims 9 and 10).

Species C, drawn to a type of agent (applicant is required to elect alpha-difluoromethylornithine, lysine or a cationic polypeptide in claims 11 and 12).

5. The species are independent or distinct because:

Species A is drawn to different components. Since each component is drawn to a different chemical, the components do not overlap in scope. In addition, since they are different chemicals, they are of materially different design.

Species B is drawn to agents that inhibit a different type of expression. ARG1 and CAT2 are different compounds and required different siRNA to inhibit their expression. Thus the agents would need to be also chemically different in order to inhibit ARG1 and CAT2. Since the agents are different chemicals, the components do not overlap in scope and have a materially different design.

Species C is drawn to agents that are different chemicals. Since the agents are different chemicals, the components do not overlap in scope and have a materially different design.

6. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, 1 - 4, 8, and 13 generic in Group I.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry Lin whose telephone number is (571) 272-2561. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00am-6:30pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang, can be reached on (571) 272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center at (800) 786-9199.

JL

MICHAEL BORIN, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER

